

Remarks

Reconsideration is requested.

Claims 1 and 6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite with respect to the phrase "increase the area of said surface by approximately one-half".

Claims 1-3 and 6-8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kaufman (U.S. Patent 5,763,989).

Applicants have amended claims 1 and 6 to more particularly define the term "contoured". With such amendments, it is believed that the Section 112 rejection has been overcome. Applicants also point out that this term has been very well described and defined in the specification.

Submitted herewith is a Declaration of Harold R. Kaufman (one of the named inventors) who describes the essential differences between the present invention and the cited reference (Kaufman, U.S. Patent No. 5,763,989).

The Declaration explains that the cited Kaufman patent does not describe or suggest use of a contoured electron-collecting surface comprising a plurality of recesses or protrusions as required in the present invention. Further, the cited Kaufman patent does not describe or suggest increasing the surface area of the electron-collecting surface by one-half or more.

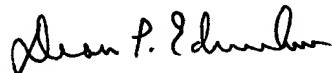
The cited Kaufman patent also fails to describe or suggest a continuous spiral recess in the electron-collecting surface of the anode. Moreover, the Kaufman patent fails to describe or suggest

ion source apparatus in which the anode comprises conducting layers separated by non-conducting layers. This is the subject of applicants' new claim 17.

It is well known that a Section 102(b) rejection cannot be maintained if there is any difference between the claimed invention and the cited art. In the present case, several differences have been pointed out which distinguish the present invention from the cited Kaufman patent.

In view of the attached Declaration, and the foregoing remarks, applicants submit that all of the rejections have now been overcome. Reconsideration and favorable action are courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



Dean P. Edmundson, Reg. No. 25723
Attorney for Applicants
P. O. Box 179
Burton, TX 77835
(979) 289-0199

HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING
DEPOSITED WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE AS
FIRST CLASS MAIL IN AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO: COMMIS-
SIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS, WASHINGTON, D.C. P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA
22231-30N January 7, 2004
DEAN P. EDMUNDSON, REG. NO. 25, 723

SIGNED Dean P. Edmundson
DATE January 7, 2004